

# The Nation's Report Card Reading Highlights 2002

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 **Average Scale Scores**
- 2 **Students Reaching NAEP Achievement Levels**
- 3 **Percentile Results**
- 3 **2002 Assessment Design**
- 4 **Fourth- and Eighth-Grade State Results**
- 11 **Subgroup Results**
- 15 **Sample Reading Questions**
- 20 **NAEP on the Web**

## Important Indicator of Educational Progress

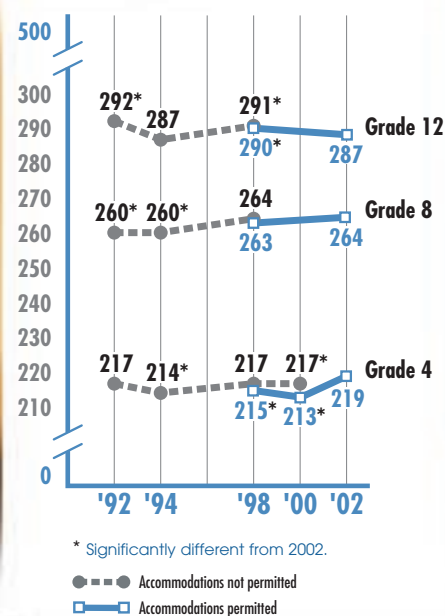
Since 1969, NAEP has been an ongoing nationally representative indicator of what American students know and can do in major academic subjects.

Over the years, NAEP has measured students' achievement in many subjects, including reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, geography, civics, and the arts. In 2002, NAEP conducted a national assessment in reading at grades 4, 8, and 12 and a state assessment at grades 4 and 8.

NAEP is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education and is overseen by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).



## 2002 Reading Trends Differ by Grade



In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

The fourth-grade average score in 2002 was higher than in 1994, 1998, and 2000, but was not found to be significantly different from 1992. Among eighth-graders, the average score in 2002 was higher than in 1992 or 1994. The twelfth-grade average score in 2002 was lower than in 1992 and 1998.

Average test scores have a standard error—a range of a few points plus or minus the score—due to sampling error and measurement error. Statistical tests are used to determine whether the differences between average scores are significant; therefore, not all apparent differences may be found to be statistically significant. Only statistically significant differences are cited in this report.

The results presented in the figures and tables throughout this report distinguish between

two different reporting samples that reflect a change in administration procedures. The more recent results are based on administration procedures in which testing accommodations were permitted for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students. Accommodations were not permitted in earlier assessments. Comparisons between results from 2002 and those from assessment years in which both types of administration procedures were used (in 1998 at all three grades and again in 2000 at the fourth grade only) are discussed based on the results when accommodations were permitted, even though significant differences in results when accommodations were not permitted may be noted in the figures and tables. Additional information about the change in administration procedures can be found in the full report, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2002*.

## Achievement Levels Provide Standards for Student Performance

Achievement levels are performance standards set by NAGB that provide a context for interpreting student performance on NAEP. These performance standards, based on recommendations from broadly representative panels of educators and members of the public, are used to report what students should know and be able to do at the *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced* levels of performance in each subject area and at each grade assessed.

As provided by law, NCES, upon review of a congressionally mandated evaluation of NAEP, has determined that the achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution.

However, both NCES and NAGB believe that these performance standards are useful for understanding trends in student achievement. NAEP achievement levels have been widely used by national and state officials.

Detailed descriptions of the NAEP reading achievement levels can be found on the NAGB web site at <http://www.nagb.org/pubs/readingbook.pdf>.

## 2002 Achievement Levels Show Gains and Losses

As shown below, the percentage of fourth-graders at or above *Basic* was higher in 2002 than in 1994, 1998, and 2000 but was not found to be significantly different from 1992. The percentage of fourth-graders at or above *Proficient* was higher in 2002 than in 1992 and 1998. The percentage of eighth-graders at or above *Basic* was higher in 2002 than in all previous assessment years. The percentage of eighth-graders at or above *Proficient* was higher in 2002 than in 1992 and 1994. The percentages of twelfth-graders at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* fell below levels seen in 1992 and 1998.

### Percentage of students, by reading achievement level, grades 4, 8, and 12: 1992–2002

|                              |      |                    |                 |                      |                    | At or above  | At or above       |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Grade 4                      |      | Below <i>Basic</i> | At <i>Basic</i> | At <i>Proficient</i> | At <i>Advanced</i> | <i>Basic</i> | <i>Proficient</i> |
| Accommodations not permitted | 1992 | 38                 | 34              | 22 *                 | 6                  | 62           | 29 *              |
|                              | 1994 | 40 *               | 31 *            | 22 *                 | 7                  | 60 *         | 30                |
|                              | 1998 | 38                 | 32              | 24                   | 7                  | 62           | 31                |
|                              | 2000 | 37                 | 31              | 24                   | 8                  | 63           | 32                |
| Accommodations permitted     | 1998 | 40 *               | 30 *            | 22 *                 | 7                  | 60 *         | 29 *              |
|                              | 2000 | 41 *               | 30 *            | 23                   | 7                  | 59 *         | 29                |
|                              | 2002 | 36                 | 32              | 24                   | 7                  | 64           | 31                |
|                              |      |                    |                 |                      |                    |              |                   |
| Grade 8                      |      |                    |                 |                      |                    |              |                   |
| Accommodations not permitted | 1992 | 31 *               | 40 *            | 26 *                 | 3                  | 69 *         | 29 *              |
|                              | 1994 | 30 *               | 40 *            | 27 *                 | 3                  | 70 *         | 30 *              |
|                              | 1998 | 26                 | 41 *            | 31                   | 3                  | 74           | 33                |
| Accommodations permitted     | 1998 | 27 *               | 41              | 30                   | 3                  | 73 *         | 32                |
|                              | 2002 | 25                 | 43              | 30                   | 3                  | 75           | 33                |
|                              |      |                    |                 |                      |                    |              |                   |
| Grade 12                     |      |                    |                 |                      |                    |              |                   |
| Accommodations not permitted | 1992 | 20 *               | 39              | 36 *                 | 4                  | 80 *         | 40 *              |
|                              | 1994 | 25                 | 38              | 32                   | 4                  | 75           | 36                |
|                              | 1998 | 23 *               | 37              | 35 *                 | 6 *                | 77 *         | 40 *              |
| Accommodations permitted     | 1998 | 24 *               | 36              | 35 *                 | 6 *                | 76 *         | 40 *              |
|                              | 2002 | 26                 | 38              | 31                   | 5                  | 74           | 36                |

\* Significantly different from 2002.

**NOTE:** Percentages within each reading achievement level range may not add to 100, or to the exact percentages at or above achievement levels, due to rounding.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

## Achievement Levels

**Basic:** This level denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.

**Proficient:** This level represents solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.

**Advanced:** This level signifies superior performance.

## Trends in Percentiles Differ by Grade Level

Looking at changes in scores for students at higher, middle, and lower performance levels gives a more complete picture of student progress. An examination of scores at different percentiles

on the 0–500 reading scale at each grade indicates whether or not the changes seen in the national average score results are reflected in the performance of lower-, middle-, and higher-performing students.

The percentile indicates the percentage of students whose scores fell below a particular score.

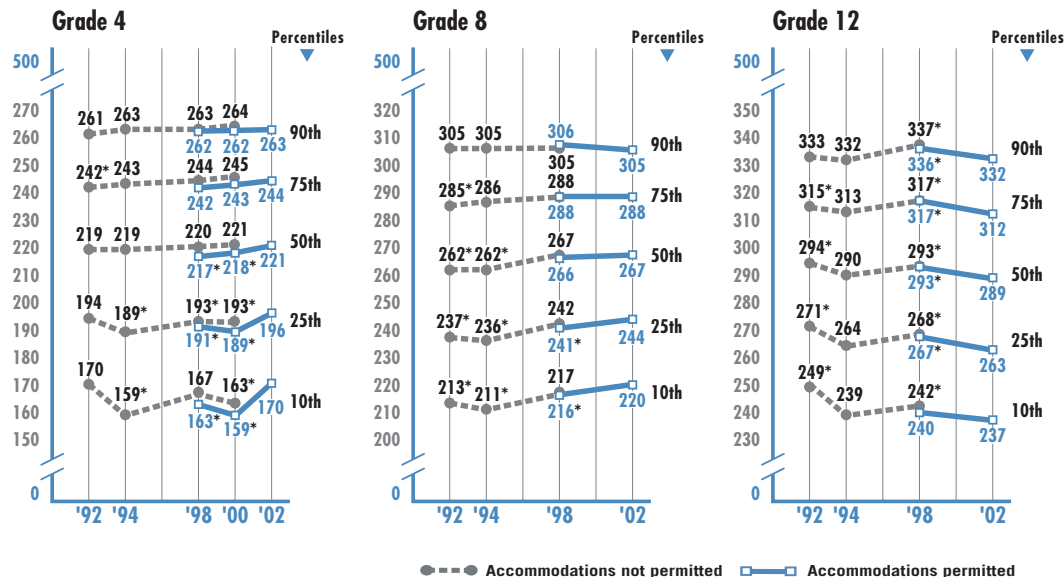
At grade 4, scores at the 10th, 25th, and 50th percentiles were higher in 2002 than in

1998 and 2000 but were not found to be significantly different from 1992. The score at the 75th percentile was higher than in 1992.

At grade 8, scores were higher in 2002 than in 1992 at all but the 90th percentile. However, only scores for lower-performing students at the 10th and 25th percentiles were higher in 2002 than in 1998.

At grade 12, the decline in performance since 1992 was evident across most of the score distribution (at the 10th, 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles). Performance declined between 1998 and 2002 at the 90th percentile.

Reading scale score percentiles, grades 4, 8, and 12: 1992–2002



\* Significantly different from 2002.

**NOTE:** Scale score results when testing accommodations were not permitted are shown in darker print, and when accommodations were permitted in lighter print.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

## NAEP 2002 Reading Assessment Design: Framework, Accommodations, and Samples

The NAEP reading framework, which defines the content for the 2002 assessment, was developed through a comprehensive national process and adopted by NAGB.

The reading framework is organized along two dimensions, the *context* for reading and the *aspect* of reading. The context dimension is divided into three areas that characterize the purposes for reading: reading for literary experience,

reading for information, and reading to perform a task. All three contexts are assessed at grades 8 and 12, but reading to perform a task is not assessed at grade 4. The aspects of reading, which define the types of comprehension questions used in the assessments, include forming a general understanding, developing interpretation, making reader/text connections, and examining content and structure.

The complete framework is available on the NAGB web site at <http://www.nagb.org>.

Beginning in 1998, assessment procedures allowed for the use of accommodations by students with disabilities or limited English proficient students who required accommodations to participate in NAEP. Accommodations had not been permitted in prior assessment years (see page 1).

Results from the 2002 reading assessment are reported for the nation at grades 4, 8, and 12, and at the state level at grades 4 and 8. The national results are based on a representative sample of students in both public schools and nonpublic schools, while the state results are based only on public-school students.

## Fourth- and Eighth-Grade Results for Participating States and Jurisdictions

In addition to national results for students' reading performance, the 2002 assessment collected performance data for fourth- and eighth-graders who attended public schools in states and other jurisdictions that volunteered to participate. In 2002, 45 states and 5 other jurisdictions participated at grade 4, and



44 states and 6 other jurisdictions participated at grade 8. Two states at grade 4 and three states at grade 8 participated but did not meet minimum school participation guidelines for reporting their results in 2002.

While the national results presented on the previous

**Table A. Average reading scale scores, grade 4 public schools: By state, 1992–2002**

|                                     | Accommodations<br>not permitted |          |          | Accommodations<br>permitted |      |                            | Accommodations<br>not permitted |          |          | Accommodations<br>permitted |      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------|
|                                     | 1992                            | 1994     | 1998     | 1998                        | 2002 |                            | 1992                            | 1994     | 1998     | 1998                        | 2002 |
| <b>Nation (Public)</b> <sup>1</sup> | 215                             | 212 *    | 215      | 213 *                       | 217  |                            |                                 |          |          |                             |      |
| Alabama                             | 207                             | 208      | 211      | 211                         | 207  | New Hampshire              | 228                             | 223      | 226      | 226                         | —    |
| Arizona                             | 209 *                           | 206      | 207      | 206                         | 205  | New Jersey                 | 223                             | 219      | —        | —                           | —    |
| Arkansas                            | 211                             | 209      | 209 *    | 209                         | 213  | New Mexico                 | 211                             | 205      | 206      | 205                         | 208  |
| California †                        | 202                             | 197 **   | 202      | 202                         | 206  | New York †                 | 215 **,*                        | 212 **,* | 216 **,* | 215 **,*                    | 222  |
| Colorado                            | 217                             | 213      | 222      | 220                         | —    | North Carolina             | 212 **,*                        | 214 **,* | 217 **,* | 213 **,*                    | 222  |
| Connecticut                         | 222 **,*                        | 222 **,* | 232      | 230                         | 229  | North Dakota †             | 226                             | 225      | —        | —                           | 224  |
| Delaware                            | 213 **,*                        | 206 **,* | 212 **,* | 207 **,*                    | 224  | Ohio                       | 217 **,*                        | —        | —        | —                           | 222  |
| Florida                             | 208 **,*                        | 205 **,* | 207 **,* | 206 **,*                    | 214  | Oklahoma                   | 220 **,*                        | —        | 220 **,* | 219 **,*                    | 213  |
| Georgia                             | 212                             | 207 **,* | 210 **,* | 209 **,*                    | 215  | Oregon                     | —                               | —        | 214 **,* | 212 **,*                    | 220  |
| Hawaii                              | 203 *                           | 201 **,* | 200 **,* | 200 **,*                    | 208  | Pennsylvania               | 221                             | 215 **,* | —        | —                           | 221  |
| Idaho                               | 219                             | —        | —        | —                           | 220  | Rhode Island               | 217                             | 220      | 218      | 218                         | 220  |
| Indiana                             | 221                             | 220      | —        | —                           | 222  | South Carolina             | 210 *                           | 203 **,* | 210      | 209 **,*                    | 214  |
| Iowa †                              | 225                             | 223      | 223      | 220                         | 223  | Tennessee †                | 212                             | 213      | 212      | 212                         | 214  |
| Kansas †                            | —                               | —        | 222      | 221                         | 222  | Texas                      | 213                             | 212      | 217      | 214                         | 217  |
| Kentucky                            | 213 **,*                        | 212 **,* | 218      | 218                         | 219  | Utah                       | 220                             | 217 **,* | 215 **,* | 216 **,*                    | 222  |
| Louisiana                           | 204                             | 197 **,* | 204      | 200 **,*                    | 207  | Vermont                    | —                               | —        | —        | —                           | 227  |
| Maine                               | 227                             | 228 **,* | 225      | 225                         | 225  | Virginia                   | 221 *                           | 213 **,* | 218 **,* | 217 **,*                    | 225  |
| Maryland                            | 211 **,*                        | 210 **,* | 215      | 212 **,*                    | 217  | Washington †               | —                               | 213 **,* | 217 **,* | 218 **,*                    | 224  |
| Massachusetts                       | 226 **,*                        | 223 **,* | 225 **,* | 223 **,*                    | 234  | West Virginia              | 216                             | 213 **,* | 216      | 216                         | 219  |
| Michigan                            | 216                             | —        | 217      | 216                         | 219  | Wisconsin †                | 224                             | 224      | 224      | 222                         | —    |
| Minnesota †                         | 221 **,*                        | 218 **,* | 222      | 219 **,*                    | 225  | Wyoming                    | 223                             | 221      | 219      | 218                         | 221  |
| Mississippi                         | 199                             | 202      | 204      | 203                         | 203  | <b>Other Jurisdictions</b> |                                 |          |          |                             |      |
| Missouri                            | 220                             | 217      | 216      | 216 **,*                    | 220  | District of Columbia       | 188 *                           | 179 **,* | 182 **,* | 179 **,*                    | 191  |
| Montana †                           | —                               | 222      | 226      | 225                         | 224  | DDESS <sup>2</sup>         | —                               | —        | 220 **,* | 219 **,*                    | 225  |
| Nebraska                            | 221                             | 220      | —        | —                           | 222  | DoDDS <sup>3</sup>         | —                               | 218 **,* | 223      | 221 **,*                    | 224  |
| Nevada                              | —                               | —        | 208      | 206                         | 209  | Guam                       | 182                             | 181 **,* | —        | —                           | 185  |
|                                     |                                 |          |          |                             |      | Virgin Islands             | 171 **,*                        | —        | 178      | 174                         | 179  |

— Indicates that the jurisdiction did not participate or did not meet minimum participation guidelines for reporting.

† Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

\* Significantly different from 2002 when only one jurisdiction or the nation is being examined.

\*\* Significantly different from 2002 when using a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated both years.

<sup>1</sup> National results that are presented for assessments prior to 2002 are based on the national sample, not on aggregated state assessment samples.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Comparative performance results may be affected by changes in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students in the NAEP samples.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results for national public schools at grade 4 (1998 and 2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, and 2002 Reading Assessments.



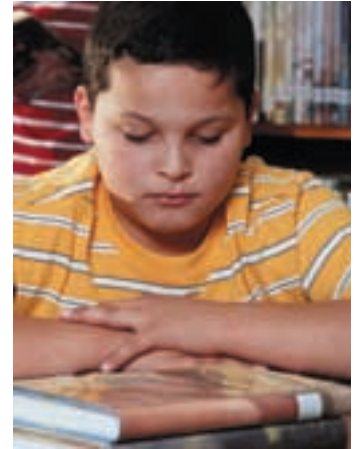
pages reflect the performance of students in both public and nonpublic schools combined, results for jurisdictions are based on the performance of students attending public schools only. For purposes of comparison, the national performance results presented here are for public school students only.

## Average Score Results

Tables A and B present average reading score results for fourth- and eighth-graders, respectively. Among the 40 jurisdictions that participated in both the 1998 and 2002 fourth-grade reading assessments, 19 jurisdictions showed score increases in 2002 and only 1 jurisdiction

showed a decline. Among the 40 jurisdictions that participated in both 1992 and 2002, average reading scores in 2002 were higher in 15 jurisdictions and lower in 2 jurisdictions.

At grade 8, 10 of the 37 jurisdictions that participated in both assessment years showed gains in 2002, and 5 showed declines.



**Table B. Average reading scale scores, grade 8 public schools: By state, 1998 and 2002**

|                                     | Accommodations<br>not permitted | Accommodations<br>permitted |      |                            | Accommodations<br>not permitted | Accommodations<br>permitted |      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|
|                                     | 1998                            | 1998                        | 2002 |                            | 1998                            | 1998                        | 2002 |
| <b>Nation (Public)</b> <sup>1</sup> | 261                             | 261 *                       | 263  | New Mexico                 | 258 *                           | 258 **,*                    | 254  |
| Alabama                             | 255                             | 255                         | 253  | New York <sup>‡</sup>      | 266                             | 265                         | 264  |
| Arizona                             | 261 *                           | 260                         | 257  | North Carolina             | 264                             | 262                         | 265  |
| Arkansas                            | 256 *                           | 256 *                       | 260  | North Dakota <sup>‡</sup>  | —                               | —                           | 268  |
| California <sup>‡</sup>             | 253                             | 252                         | 250  | Ohio                       | —                               | —                           | 268  |
| Colorado                            | 264                             | 264                         | —    | Oklahoma                   | 265 *                           | 265 *                       | 262  |
| Connecticut                         | 272 **,*                        | 270 *                       | 267  | Oregon <sup>‡</sup>        | 266                             | 266                         | 268  |
| Delaware                            | 256 **,*                        | 254 **,*                    | 267  | Pennsylvania               | —                               | —                           | 265  |
| Florida                             | 253 **,*                        | 255 **,*                    | 261  | Rhode Island               | 262                             | 264 *                       | 262  |
| Georgia                             | 257                             | 257                         | 258  | South Carolina             | 255                             | 255                         | 258  |
| Hawaii                              | 250                             | 249 *                       | 252  | Tennessee <sup>‡</sup>     | 259                             | 258                         | 260  |
| Idaho                               | —                               | —                           | 266  | Texas                      | 262                             | 261                         | 262  |
| Indiana                             | —                               | —                           | 265  | Utah                       | 265                             | 263                         | 263  |
| Kansas <sup>‡</sup>                 | 268                             | 268                         | 269  | Vermont                    | —                               | —                           | 272  |
| Kentucky                            | 262                             | 262                         | 265  | Virginia                   | 266                             | 266                         | 269  |
| Louisiana                           | 252 *                           | 252 *                       | 256  | Washington <sup>‡</sup>    | 265                             | 264 *                       | 268  |
| Maine                               | 273                             | 271                         | 270  | West Virginia              | 262                             | 262                         | 264  |
| Maryland                            | 262                             | 261                         | 263  | Wisconsin <sup>‡</sup>     | 266                             | 265                         | —    |
| Massachusetts                       | 269                             | 269                         | 271  | Wyoming                    | 262                             | 263                         | 265  |
| Michigan                            | —                               | —                           | 265  | <b>Other Jurisdictions</b> |                                 |                             |      |
| Minnesota <sup>‡</sup>              | 267                             | 265                         | —    | American Samoa             | —                               | —                           | 198  |
| Mississippi                         | 251 *                           | 251 *                       | 255  | District of Columbia       | 236                             | 236                         | 240  |
| Missouri                            | 263 **,*                        | 262 **,*                    | 268  | DDESS <sup>2</sup>         | 269                             | 268                         | 272  |
| Montana <sup>‡</sup>                | 270                             | 271                         | 270  | DoDDS <sup>3</sup>         | 269 **,*                        | 269 **,*                    | 273  |
| Nebraska                            | —                               | —                           | 270  | Guam                       | —                               | —                           | 240  |
| Nevada                              | 257 **,*                        | 258 **,*                    | 251  | Virgin Islands             | 233 *                           | 231 **,*                    | 241  |

— Indicates that the jurisdiction did not participate or did not meet minimum participation guidelines for reporting.

<sup>‡</sup> Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

\* Significantly different from 2002 when only one jurisdiction or the nation is being examined.

\*\* Significantly different from 2002 when using a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated both years.

<sup>1</sup> National results that are presented for assessments prior to 2002 are based on the national sample, not on aggregated state assessment samples.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Comparative performance results may be affected by changes in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students in the NAEP samples.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Reading Assessments.

# The Nation's Report Card

Figures A and B show how the performance of students in participating states and other jurisdictions compares to the performance of students in the national public-school sample.

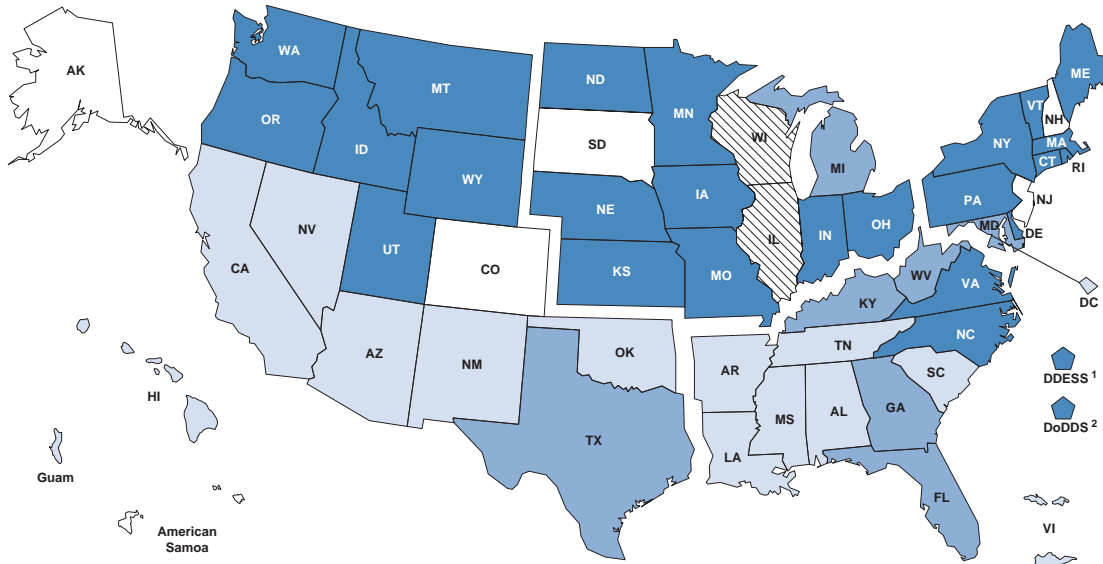
Of the 48 states and other jurisdictions that had their results reported in 2002 at grade 4, 26 had scores that were higher than the national average score, 7 had scores that were not found to be

statistically different from the national average, and 15 had scores that were lower than the national average.

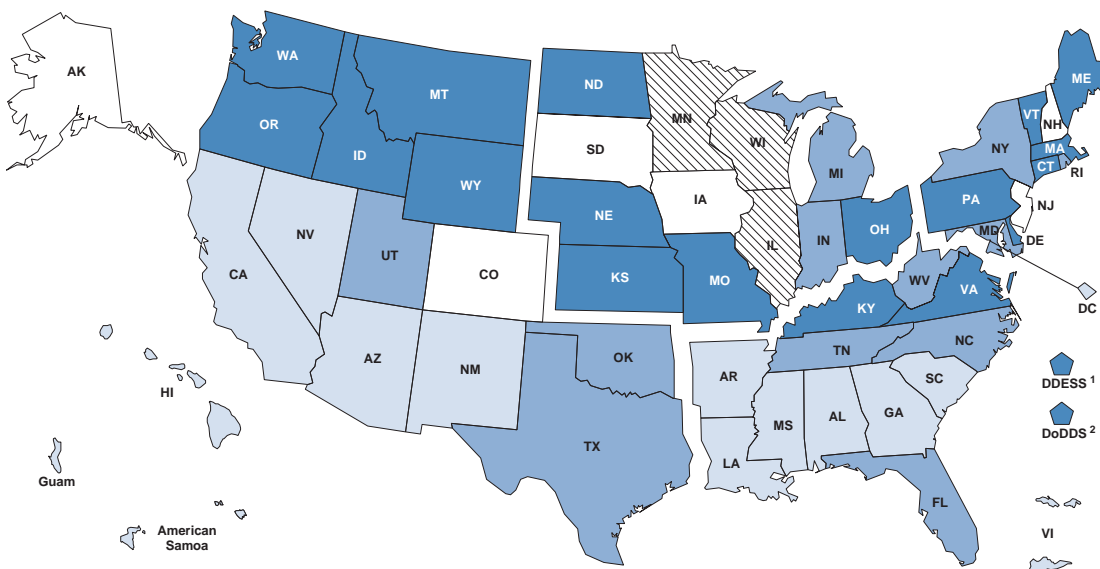
Of the 47 states and other jurisdictions that had results reported in 2002 at grade 8,

20 had scores that were higher than the national average score, 12 had scores that were not found to differ significantly from the national average, and 15 had scores that were lower than the national average.

**Figure A. Comparison of state and national public school average reading scores, grade 4: 2002**



**Figure B. Comparison of state and national public school average reading scores, grade 8: 2002**



- Jurisdiction had higher average scale score than nation.
- Jurisdiction was not found to be significantly different from nation in average scale score.
- Jurisdiction had lower average scale score than nation.
- Jurisdiction did not meet minimum participation rate guidelines.
- Jurisdiction did not participate in the NAEP 2002 Reading State Assessment.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

## Achievement Level Results

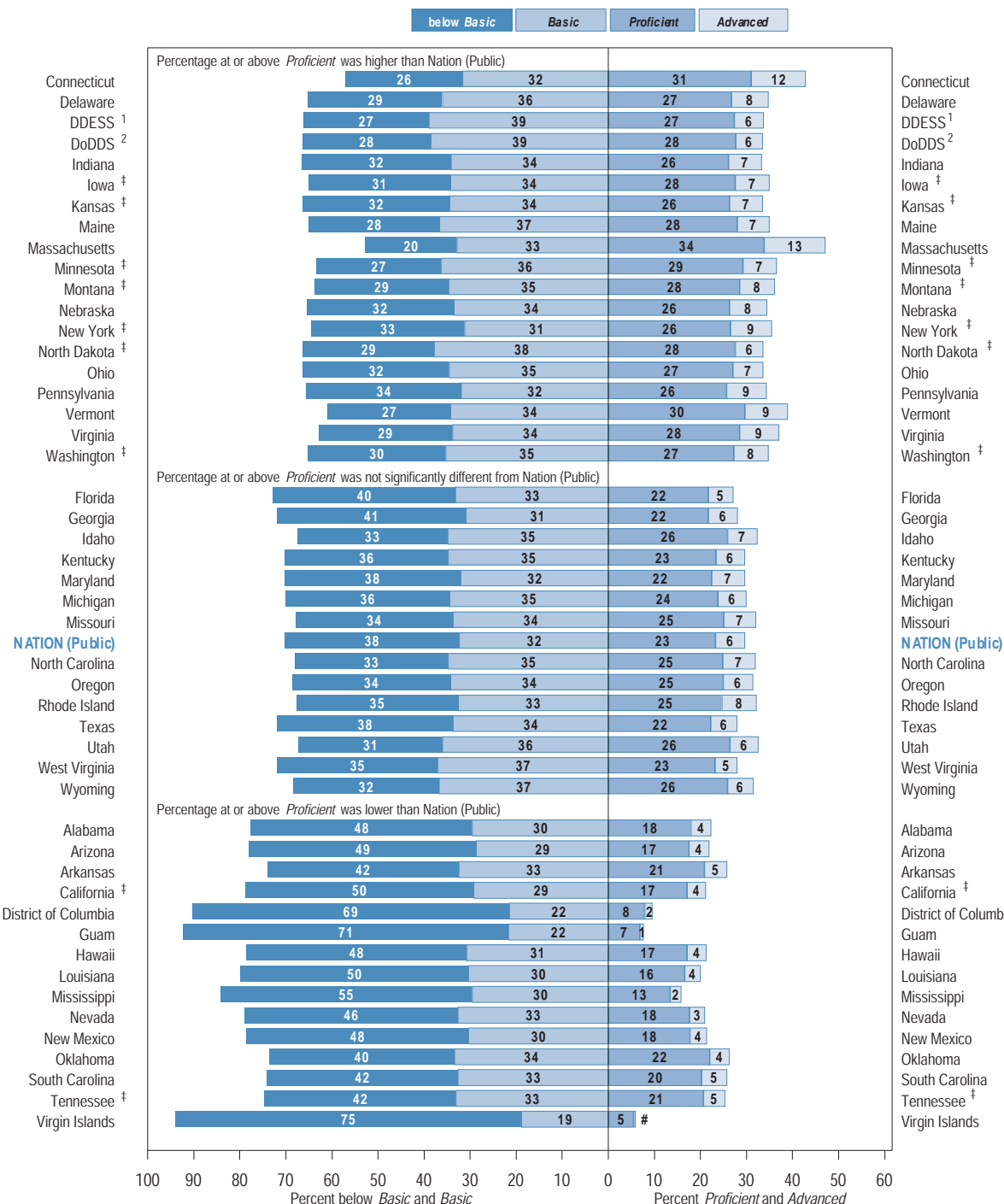
The following figures show the percentages of fourth- and eighth-graders at each achievement level for the states and other jurisdictions that had results reported in

the 2002 reading assessment. Figure C shows this information for grade 4, figure D for grade 8. In both figures, the shaded bars represent the proportion of students at each of three achievement

levels: *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*—as well as the proportion below *Basic*. The central vertical line divides the proportion of students who fell below the *Proficient* level (i.e., at *Basic* or below

*Basic*) from those who performed at or above the *Proficient* achievement level (i.e., at *Proficient* or at *Advanced*). Scanning down the horizontal bars to the right of the vertical line allows

**Figure C. Percentage of students within each reading achievement level range, grade 4 public schools: By state, 2002**



# Percentage rounds to zero.

† Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Percentages may not add to 100, due to rounding.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

# The Nation's Report Card

easy comparison of states' and jurisdictions' percentages of students at or above *Proficient*—the achievement level identified by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) as the standard all students should reach.

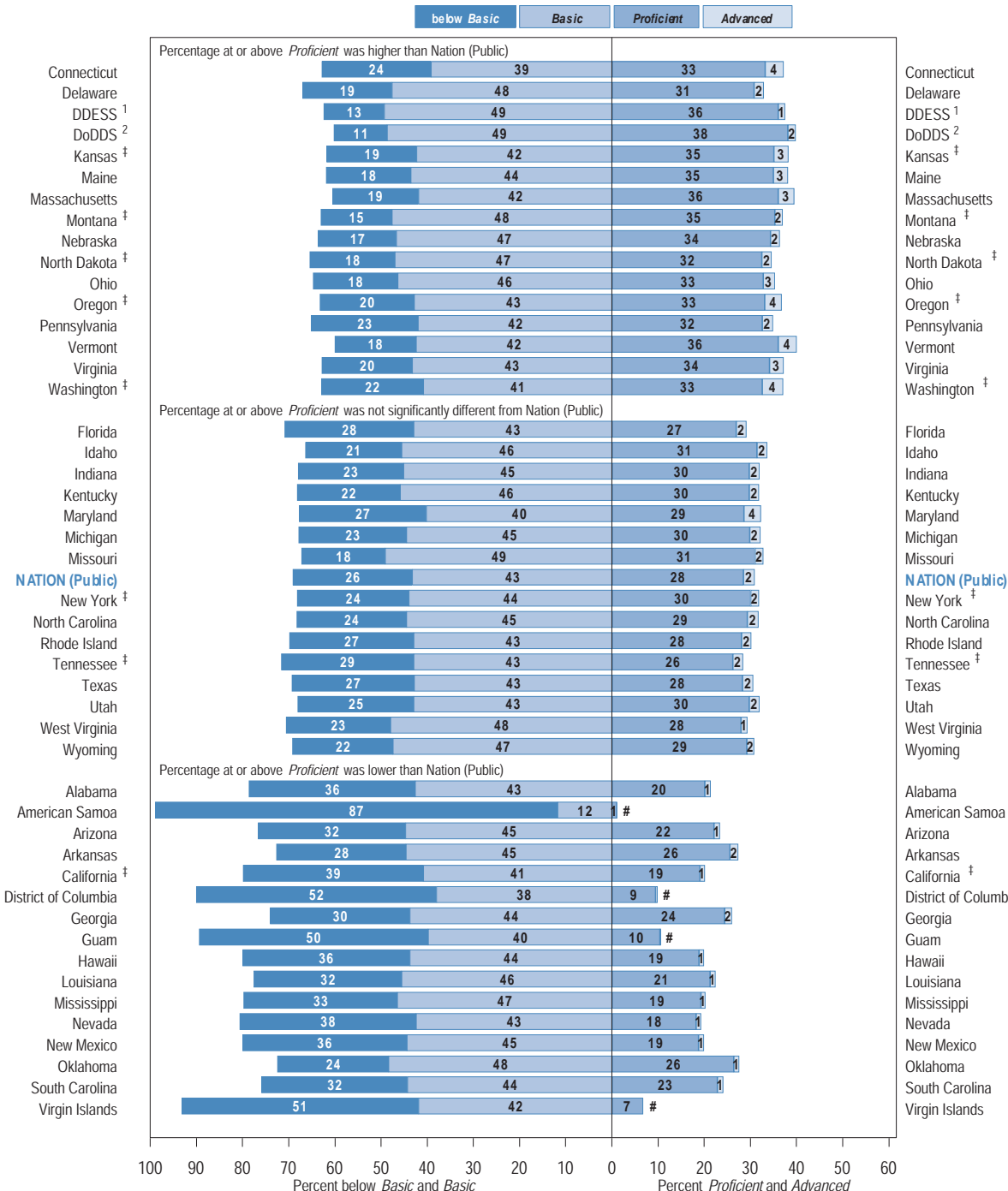
At grade 4, as shown in figure C, 19 states and other jurisdictions had higher percentages of students at or above *Proficient* than the nation, 14 had percentages that were not found to be statistically different from the

nation, and 15 had percentages that were lower than the nation.

At grade 8, as shown in figure D, 16 states and other jurisdictions had higher percentages of students at or

above *Proficient* than the nation, 15 had percentages that were not found to be significantly different from the nation, and 16 had percentages that were lower than the nation.

**Figure D. Percentage of students within each reading achievement level range, grade 8 public schools: By state, 2002**



# Percentage rounds to zero.

<sup>‡</sup> Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Percentages may not add to 100, due to rounding.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.



## Students Performing at or Above Proficient in Reading

The percentage of students at or above the *Proficient* level across years is presented in table C for grade 4 and in table D for grade 8. The percentage of fourth-graders

at or above *Proficient* increased from 1998 to 2002 in 11 jurisdictions and decreased in 1 jurisdiction. Since 1992, the percentage of fourth-graders at or above *Proficient* has

increased in 17 jurisdictions. The percentage of eighth-graders at or above *Proficient* has increased since 1998 in 5 jurisdictions and declined in 1 jurisdiction.



**Table C. Percentage of students at or above Proficient in reading, grade 4 public schools: By state, 1992–2002**

| Nation (Public) <sup>1</sup> | Accommodations not permitted |         |         | Accommodations permitted |      |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------|------|
|                              | 1992                         | 1994    | 1998    | 1998                     | 2002 |
| Alabama                      | 20                           | 23      | 24      | 24                       | 22   |
| Arizona                      | 21                           | 24      | 22      | 22                       | 22   |
| Arkansas                     | 23                           | 24      | 23      | 23                       | 26   |
| California <sup>†</sup>      | 19                           | 18      | 20      | 20                       | 21   |
| Colorado                     | 25                           | 28      | 34      | 33                       | —    |
| Connecticut                  | 34 ***                       | 38 *    | 46      | 43                       | 43   |
| Delaware                     | 24 ***                       | 23 **   | 25 **   | 22 **                    | 35   |
| Florida                      | 21 **,*                      | 23 *    | 23 *    | 22 **,*                  | 27   |
| Georgia                      | 25                           | 26      | 24      | 24 *                     | 28   |
| Hawaii                       | 17 *                         | 19      | 17 *    | 17 *                     | 21   |
| Idaho                        | 28 *                         | —       | —       | —                        | 32   |
| Indiana                      | 30                           | 33      | —       | —                        | 33   |
| Iowa <sup>†</sup>            | 36                           | 35      | 35      | 33                       | 35   |
| Kansas <sup>†</sup>          | —                            | —       | 34      | 34                       | 34   |
| Kentucky                     | 23 **                        | 26      | 29      | 29                       | 30   |
| Louisiana                    | 15 **,*                      | 15 **   | 19      | 17                       | 20   |
| Maine                        | 36                           | 41 **,* | 36      | 35                       | 35   |
| Maryland                     | 24 **                        | 26      | 29      | 27                       | 30   |
| Massachusetts                | 36 **,*                      | 36 **,* | 37 **,* | 35 **,*                  | 47   |
| Michigan                     | 26                           | —       | 28      | 28                       | 30   |
| Minnesota <sup>†</sup>       | 31 **,*                      | 33      | 36      | 35                       | 37   |
| Mississippi                  | 14                           | 18      | 18      | 17                       | 16   |
| Missouri                     | 30                           | 31      | 29      | 28                       | 32   |
| Montana <sup>†</sup>         | —                            | 35      | 37      | 37                       | 36   |
| Nebraska                     | 31                           | 34      | —       | —                        | 34   |
| Nevada                       | —                            | —       | 21      | 20                       | 21   |
| New Hampshire                | 38                           | 36      | 38      | 37                       | —    |
| New Jersey                   | 35                           | 33      | —       | —                        | —    |
| New Mexico                   | 23                           | 21      | 22      | 21                       | 21   |
| New York <sup>†</sup>        | 27 **,*                      | 27 **,* | 29 *    | 29 *                     | 35   |
| North Carolina               | 25 **,*                      | 30      | 28 *    | 27 *                     | 32   |
| North Dakota <sup>†</sup>    | 35                           | 38      | —       | —                        | 34   |
| Ohio                         | 27 **,*                      | —       | —       | —                        | 34   |
| Oklahoma                     | 29                           | —       | 30      | 30 *                     | 26   |
| Oregon                       | —                            | —       | 28      | 26 *                     | 31   |
| Pennsylvania                 | 32                           | 30 *    | —       | —                        | 34   |
| Rhode Island                 | 28 *                         | 32      | 32      | 31                       | 32   |
| South Carolina               | 22 *                         | 20 **,* | 22      | 22                       | 26   |
| Tennessee <sup>†</sup>       | 23                           | 27      | 25      | 25                       | 25   |
| Texas                        | 24                           | 26      | 29      | 28                       | 28   |
| Utah                         | 30                           | 30      | 28 *    | 28 *                     | 33   |
| Vermont                      | —                            | —       | —       | —                        | 39   |
| Virginia                     | 31 **,*                      | 26 **,* | 30 **,* | 30 **,*                  | 37   |
| Washington <sup>†</sup>      | —                            | 27 **,* | 29 *    | 30 *                     | 35   |
| West Virginia                | 25                           | 26      | 29      | 28                       | 28   |
| Wisconsin <sup>†</sup>       | 33                           | 35      | 34      | 34                       | —    |
| Wyoming                      | 33                           | 32      | 30      | 29                       | 31   |
| <b>Other Jurisdictions</b>   |                              |         |         |                          |      |
| District of Columbia         | 10                           | 8       | 10      | 10                       | 10   |
| DDESS <sup>2</sup>           | —                            | —       | 32      | 32                       | 34   |
| DoDDS <sup>3</sup>           | —                            | 28 **,* | 34      | 33                       | 33   |
| Guam                         | 8                            | 8       | —       | —                        | 8    |
| Virgin Islands               | 3 **,*                       | —       | 8       | 7                        | 6    |

— Indicates that the jurisdiction did not participate or did not meet minimum participation guidelines for reporting.

<sup>†</sup> Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

\* Significantly different from 2002 when only one jurisdiction or the nation is being examined.

\*\* Significantly different from 2002 when using a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated both years.

<sup>1</sup> National results that are presented for assessments prior to 2002 are based on the national sample, not on aggregated state assessment samples.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Comparative performance results may be affected by changes in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students in the NAEP samples.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results for national public schools at grade 4 (1998 and 2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

# The Nation's Report Card

Table D. Percentage of students at or above *Proficient* in reading, grade 8 public schools: By state, 1998 and 2002

|                                     | Accommodations<br>not permitted | Accommodations<br>permitted |      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|
|                                     | 1998                            | 1998                        | 2002 |
| <b>Nation (Public)</b> <sup>1</sup> | 31                              | 30                          | 31   |
| Alabama                             | 21                              | 22                          | 21   |
| Arizona                             | 28 *                            | 27                          | 23   |
| Arkansas                            | 23 *                            | 23                          | 27   |
| California †                        | 22                              | 21                          | 20   |
| Colorado                            | 30                              | 30                          | —    |
| Connecticut                         | 42 *                            | 40                          | 37   |
| Delaware                            | 25 *,**                         | 23 *,**                     | 33   |
| Florida                             | 23 *                            | 23 *                        | 29   |
| Georgia                             | 25                              | 25                          | 26   |
| Hawaii                              | 19                              | 19                          | 20   |
| Idaho                               | —                               | —                           | 34   |
| Indiana                             | —                               | —                           | 32   |
| Kansas †                            | 35                              | 36                          | 38   |
| Kentucky                            | 29                              | 30                          | 32   |
| Louisiana                           | 18 *                            | 17 *                        | 22   |
| Maine                               | 42                              | 41                          | 38   |
| Maryland                            | 31                              | 31                          | 32   |
| Massachusetts                       | 36                              | 38                          | 39   |
| Michigan                            | —                               | —                           | 32   |
| Minnesota †                         | 37                              | 36                          | —    |
| Mississippi                         | 19                              | 19                          | 20   |
| Missouri                            | 29                              | 28 *                        | 33   |
| Montana †                           | 38                              | 40                          | 37   |
| Nebraska                            | —                               | —                           | 36   |
| Nevada                              | 24 *                            | 23 *                        | 19   |
| New Mexico                          | 24                              | 23                          | 20   |
| New York †                          | 34                              | 32                          | 32   |
| North Carolina                      | 31                              | 30                          | 32   |
| North Dakota †                      | —                               | —                           | 35   |
| Ohio                                | —                               | —                           | 35   |
| Oklahoma                            | 29                              | 30                          | 28   |
| Oregon †                            | 33                              | 35                          | 37   |
| Pennsylvania                        | —                               | —                           | 35   |
| Rhode Island                        | 30                              | 32                          | 30   |
| South Carolina                      | 22                              | 22                          | 24   |
| Tennessee †                         | 26                              | 27                          | 28   |
| Texas                               | 28                              | 27                          | 31   |
| Utah                                | 31                              | 31                          | 32   |
| Vermont                             | —                               | —                           | 40   |
| Virginia                            | 33                              | 33                          | 37   |
| Washington †                        | 32 *                            | 32 *                        | 37   |
| West Virginia                       | 27                              | 28                          | 29   |
| Wisconsin †                         | 33                              | 34                          | —    |
| Wyoming                             | 29                              | 31                          | 31   |
| <b>Other Jurisdictions</b>          |                                 |                             |      |
| American Samoa                      | —                               | —                           | 1    |
| District of Columbia                | 12                              | 11                          | 10   |
| DDESS <sup>2</sup>                  | 37                              | 39                          | 37   |
| DoDDS <sup>3</sup>                  | 36                              | 37                          | 40   |
| Guam                                | —                               | —                           | 11   |
| Virgin Islands                      | 10                              | 9                           | 7    |

— Indicates that the jurisdiction did not participate or did not meet minimum participation guidelines for reporting.

† Indicates that the jurisdiction did not meet one or more of the guidelines for school participation in 2002.

\* Significantly different from 2002 when only one jurisdiction or the nation is being examined.

\*\* Significantly different from 2002 when using a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated both years.

<sup>1</sup> National results that are presented for assessments prior to 2002 are based on the national sample, not on aggregated state assessment samples.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

**NOTE:** Comparative performance results may be affected by changes in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students in the NAEP samples.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Reading Assessments.



# Subgroup Results Reveal How Various Groups of Students Performed on NAEP

In addition to reporting information on all students' performance on its assessments, NAEP also studies the performance of various subgroups of students. The reading performance of

subgroups of students in 2002 indicates whether they have progressed since earlier assessments and allows for comparisons with the performance of other subgroups in 2002.

When reading these subgroup results, it is important to keep in mind that there is no simple, cause-and-effect relationship between membership in a subgroup and

achievement in NAEP. A complex mix of educational and socioeconomic factors may interact to affect student performance.

## Average Reading Scores by Gender

The figures below present average reading scores for males and females across assessment years.

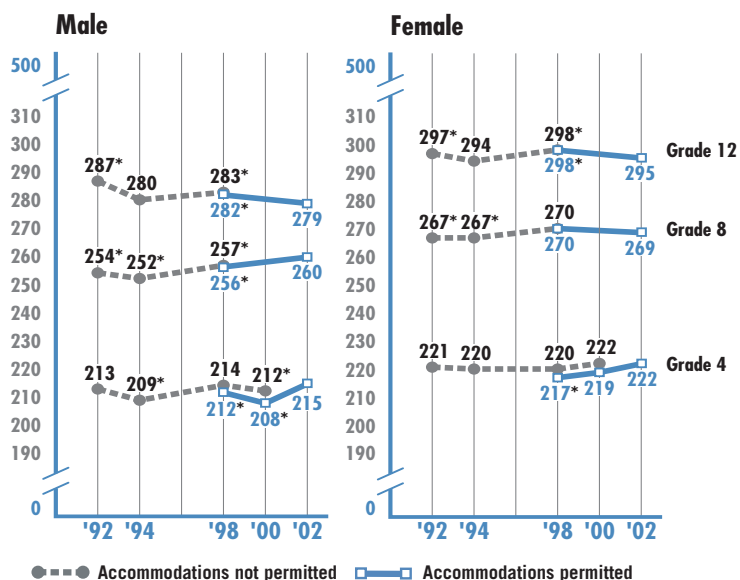
The average scores for male and female fourth-graders were higher in 2002 than in 1998 but were not found to be significantly different from the scores in 1992.

The average reading scores for both male and female eighth-graders were higher in 2002 than in 1992 and 1994.

While the reading score for eighth-grade males increased between 1998 and 2002, the average score for females in 2002 was not found to be significantly different from that in 1998.

The average reading scores for both male and female twelfth-graders decreased between 1998 and 2002, resulting in average scores that were lower than in 1992 for both groups.

### Average reading scale scores, by gender, grades 4, 8, and 12: 1992–2002



\* Significantly different from 2002.

**NOTE:** Scale score results when testing accommodations were not permitted are shown in darker print, and when accommodations were permitted in lighter print.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

## Average Reading Score Gaps Between Males and Females

In 2002, the difference in average reading scale scores favoring females over males was 6 score points at grade 4, 9 points at grade 8, and 16 points at grade 12. While this represents a narrowing of the gap since 2000 at grade 4, the gap in 2002 was not found to be significantly different from 1992. The gap in 2002 at grade 8 was smaller than in all prior assessment years. The scale score gap between male and female twelfth-graders was larger in 2002 than in 1992.

### Grade 4

#### Female average score minus male average score

Accommodations not permitted

1992 8  
1994 10\*  
1998 6  
2000 10\*

Accommodations permitted

1998 5  
2000 11\*  
2002 6

### Grade 8

Accommodations not permitted

1992 13\*  
1994 15\*  
1998 13\*

Accommodations permitted

1998 14\*  
2002 9

### Grade 12

Accommodations not permitted

1992 10\*  
1994 14  
1998 16

Accommodations permitted

1998 16  
2002 16

Score gaps

\* Significantly different from 2002.

**NOTE:** Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

## Achievement Level Results by Gender

The percentages of male and female students at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* reading achievement levels are presented below.

At grade 4, the percentages of males at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* levels were higher in 2002 than in 2000 but were not found to differ significantly from 1992. The

percentages of female fourth-graders at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* were higher in 2002 than in 1998, but were not found to differ significantly from 1992.

At grade 8, the percentage of males at or above *Basic* was higher in 2002 than in any of the previous reading assessment years. The percentage of

males at or above *Proficient* in 2002 was higher than that in 1992 and 1994. The percentage of eighth-grade females at or above *Basic* in 2002 was higher than in 1992 and 1994, while no significant change was detected in the percentage at or above *Proficient*.

At grade 12, the percentages of males and females at or above *Basic* were lower in 2002 than in 1992. The percentages of males at or above *Proficient* was lower in 2002 than in 1992 while there was no significant change detected since 1992 for females.

### Percentages of students at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* in reading, by gender, grades 4, 8, and 12: 1992–2002

| Grade 4                       |  | Accommodations not permitted |      |      |      | Accommodations permitted |      |      |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|
|                               |  | 1992                         | 1994 | 1998 | 2000 | 1998                     | 2000 | 2002 |
| <b>Male</b>                   |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 25                           | 26   | 28   | 27   | 27                       | 25 * | 28   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 58                           | 55 * | 59   | 58   | 57 *                     | 55 * | 61   |
| <b>Female</b>                 |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 32                           | 34   | 33   | 36   | 32 *                     | 34   | 35   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 67                           | 66   | 65   | 67   | 62 *                     | 64   | 67   |
| <b>Grade 8</b>                |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| <b>Male</b>                   |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 23 *                         | 23 * | 27   | —    | 26                       | —    | 28   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 64 *                         | 62 * | 68 * | —    | 67 *                     | —    | 71   |
| <b>Female</b>                 |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 35                           | 36   | 40   | —    | 39                       | —    | 38   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 76 *                         | 77 * | 81   | —    | 80                       | —    | 80   |
| <b>Grade 12</b>               |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| <b>Male</b>                   |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 34 *                         | 29   | 32 * | —    | 32 *                     | —    | 28   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 75 *                         | 69   | 70 * | —    | 70                       | —    | 67   |
| <b>Female</b>                 |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i> |  | 46                           | 43   | 48 * | —    | 48 *                     | —    | 44   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>      |  | 84 *                         | 80   | 83 * | —    | 83                       | —    | 80   |

— Data were not collected at grades 8 and 12 in 2000.

\*Significantly different from 2002.

**NOTE:** In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.



## Average Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity

Based on information obtained from school records, students who took the NAEP reading assessment were identified as belonging to one of the racial/ethnic subgroups identified in the figures below. The results presented here for 1992 through 2000 differ from those presented in earlier reading reports in which results were reported for the same five racial/ethnic subgroups listed below based on student self-identification.

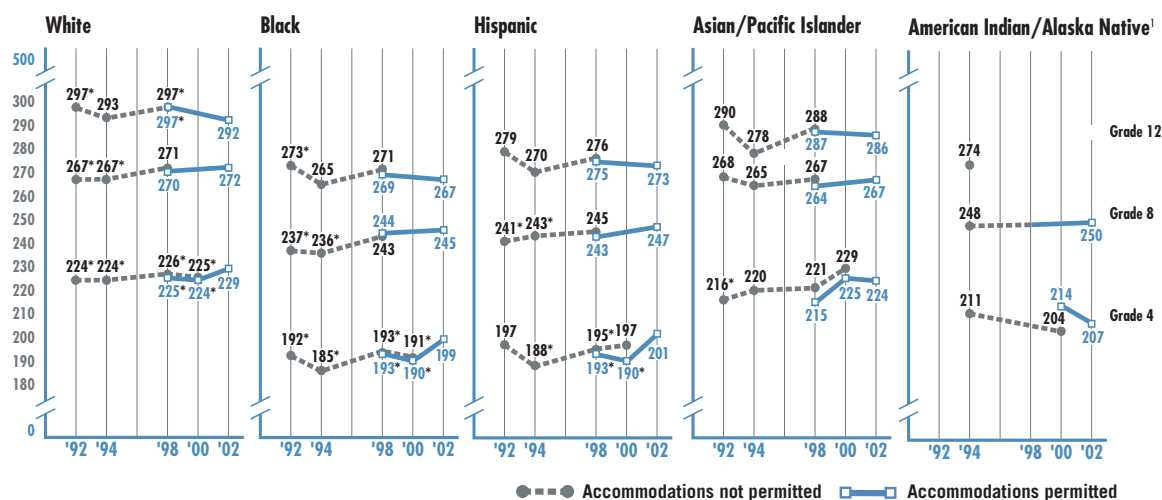
At grade 4, both White students and Black students had higher average reading scores in 2002 than in any of the previous assessment years. The average score for Hispanic students in 2002 was higher than in 1994, 1998, and 2000 but was not found to be significantly different from 1992. The average score in 2002 was higher than that in 1992 for Asian/Pacific Islander students.

At grade 8, average reading scores in 2002 were higher than those in 1992 and 1994 for White, Black, and Hispanic students.

At grade 12, the average scores for White students and Black students in 2002 were lower than in 1992.

In 2002, White students and Asian/Pacific Islander students had higher average scores than Black and His-

panic students, and White students outperformed Asian/Pacific Islander students at all three grades. In addition, White and Asian/Pacific Islander students scored higher on average than American Indian/Alaska Native students at grades 4 and 8.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

\* Significantly different from 2002.

<sup>1</sup> Sample size was insufficient to permit a reliable estimate for American Indian/Alaska Native students in 1992 and 1998 at all three grades.

Quality control activities and special analysis raised concerns about the accuracy and precision of grade 12 American Indian/Alaska Native data in 2002. As a result, they are omitted from this report.

NOTE: Scale score results when testing accommodations were not permitted are shown in darker print, and when accommodations were permitted in lighter print. At each grade, approximately 1 percent of students were classified as other races.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

## Average Reading Score Gaps Between Selected Racial/Ethnic Subgroups

Average score gaps across assessment years between White students and Black students and between White students and Hispanic students are presented in the figures shown to the right.

The score gap between White and Black fourth-graders was smaller in 2002 than in 1994 and the gap between White and Hispanic fourth-graders narrowed between 2000 and 2002 but neither was found to differ significantly from 1992. At grades 8 and 12, no significant change in either gap was seen across the assessment years.

\* Significantly different from 2002.

NOTE: Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.





## Achievement Level Results by Race/Ethnicity

Achievement level results for the racial/ethnic subgroups are presented in the figures below. At grade 4, the percentages of White and Black students at or above *Basic* were higher in 2002 than in any of the previous assessment years, and the percentages at or above *Proficient* were higher in 2002

than in 1992 and 1994 for both groups. The percentage of Hispanic students at or above *Basic* in 2002 was higher than in 1994 but was not found to differ significantly from 1992. The percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander students at or above *Proficient* was higher in 2002 compared to 1992.

At grade 8, the percentages of White students and Black students at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* levels were higher in 2002 than in 1992 and 1994. The percentage of White students at or above *Basic* was also higher in 2002 than in 1998. A higher percentage of Hispanic

students were at or above *Basic* in 2002 than in 1992 and 1994.

At grade 12, the percentages of White students at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* levels were lower in 2002 than in 1992 and 1998.

### Percentages of students at or above *Basic* and *Proficient*, by race/ethnicity, grades 4, 8, and 12: 1992–2002

| Grade 4                              |  | Accommodations not permitted |      |      |      | Accommodations permitted |      |      |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|
|                                      |  | 1992                         | 1994 | 1998 | 2000 | 1998                     | 2000 | 2002 |
| <b>White</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 35 *                         | 36 * | 38   | 39   | 37 *                     | 38   | 41   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 71 *                         | 70 * | 72 * | 72 * | 70 *                     | 70 * | 75   |
| <b>Black</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 8 *                          | 8 *  | 10   | 11   | 10                       | 10   | 12   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 32 *                         | 30 * | 35 * | 35 * | 36 *                     | 35 * | 40   |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                      |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 12                           | 12   | 13   | 15   | 13                       | 13   | 15   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 39                           | 34 * | 38   | 41   | 37                       | 37   | 44   |
| <b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>        |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 25 *                         | 36   | 34   | 44   | 30                       | 41   | 37   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 60                           | 66   | 63   | 75   | 58                       | 70   | 70   |
| <b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b> |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | †                            | 30   | †    | 22   | †                        | 28   | 22   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | †                            | 59   | †    | 60   | †                        | 63   | 51   |
| Grade 8                              |  | Accommodations not permitted |      |      |      | Accommodations permitted |      |      |
|                                      |  | 1992                         | 1994 | 1998 | 2000 | 1998                     | 2000 | 2002 |
| <b>White</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 35 *                         | 35 * | 40   | —    | 39                       | —    | 41   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 77 *                         | 77 * | 82   | —    | 81 *                     | —    | 84   |
| <b>Black</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 9 *                          | 10 * | 13   | —    | 13                       | —    | 13   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 45 *                         | 43 * | 52   | —    | 53                       | —    | 55   |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                      |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 13                           | 15   | 15   | —    | 14                       | —    | 15   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 49 *                         | 51 * | 54   | —    | 53                       | —    | 57   |
| <b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>        |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 37                           | 34   | 35   | —    | 33                       | —    | 36   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 76                           | 72   | 77   | —    | 75                       | —    | 76   |
| <b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b> |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | †                            | 19   | †    | —    | †                        | —    | 17   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | †                            | 58   | †    | —    | †                        | —    | 61   |
| Grade 12                             |  | Accommodations not permitted |      |      |      | Accommodations permitted |      |      |
|                                      |  | 1992                         | 1994 | 1998 | 2000 | 1998                     | 2000 | 2002 |
| <b>White</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 46 *                         | 42   | 47 * | —    | 47 *                     | —    | 42   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 85 *                         | 80   | 83 * | —    | 82 *                     | —    | 79   |
| <b>Black</b>                         |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 18                           | 13   | 18   | —    | 17                       | —    | 16   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 61                           | 52   | 58   | —    | 57                       | —    | 54   |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                      |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 23                           | 20   | 25   | —    | 24                       | —    | 22   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 67                           | 58   | 64   | —    | 62                       | —    | 61   |
| <b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>        |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | 40                           | 29   | 37   | —    | 38                       | —    | 34   |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | 77                           | 67   | 75   | —    | 74                       | —    | 73   |
| <b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b> |  |                              |      |      |      |                          |      |      |
| At or above <i>Proficient</i>        |  | †                            | 20   | †    | —    | †                        | —    | †    |
| At or above <i>Basic</i>             |  | †                            | 61   | †    | —    | †                        | —    | †    |

— Data were not collected.

\*Significantly different from 2002.

†Reporting standards were not met. Quality control activities and special analysis raised concerns about the accuracy and precision of grade 12 American Indian/Alaska Native data in 2002. As a result, they are omitted from this report.

NOTE: At each grade, approximately 1 percent of students were classified as other races.

In addition to allowing for accommodations, the accommodations-permitted results at grade 4 (1998–2002) differ slightly from previous years' results, and from previously reported results for 1998 and 2000, due to changes in sample weighting procedures. See appendix A of the full report card for more details.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Reading Assessments.

# Sample Reading Questions

A better understanding of students' performance on the NAEP 2002 reading assessment can be gained by examining sample test questions and students' responses to them. The questions shown here were used in the 2002 reading

assessment. The tables that accompany these sample questions show two types of percentages: the overall percentage of students answering the question successfully and the percentage of students at each achievement level answering

successfully. For the multiple-choice questions shown, the oval corresponding to the correct multiple-choice response is filled in and for the constructed-response questions sample student responses are presented. In addition, the reading context

and reading aspect are identified for each sample question. Additional sample questions can be viewed on the NAEP web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>.

## Grade 4 Sample Questions and Responses

### Fourth-Grade Multiple-Choice Question

The fourth-grade reading comprehension questions presented here were based on the short story "The Box in the Barn," by Barbara Eckfield Connor. Jason, the story's main character, learns a lesson about the risks of snooping when he accidentally lets loose a puppy he believes to be his sister's birthday present. After a day of worry and guilt, Jason is relieved and excited to learn that his father has rescued the puppy, which turns out to be a surprise gift for the boy.

This sample question asked students to choose an answer to explain the character's motivation.

**Overall percentage correct**  
77

**Below Basic**  
207 or below<sup>1</sup>  
48

**At Basic**  
208–237<sup>1</sup>  
87

**At Proficient**  
238–267<sup>1</sup>  
96

**At Advanced**  
268 or above<sup>1</sup>  
99

<sup>1</sup>NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

When Megan spoke to Jason in the tall weeds, she was concerned that

- ☐ Ⓐ she wouldn't get enough presents
- ☐ Ⓑ her dad wouldn't get back in time for the party
- ☒ Ⓒ something was wrong with Jason
- ☐ Ⓓ the puppy was missing from the box

### Reading Context:

Reading for Literary Experience

### Reading Aspect:

Developing Interpretation

## Fourth-Grade Multiple-Choice Question

This question asked students to identify dialogue that illustrates a character's feelings within the story.

**Overall percentage correct**  
60

**Below Basic**  
207 or below<sup>1</sup>  
37

**At Basic**  
208–237<sup>1</sup>  
63

**At Proficient**  
238–267<sup>1</sup>  
80

**At Advanced**  
268 or above<sup>1</sup>  
90

<sup>1</sup>NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

What does Megan say in the story that shows how she felt about Jason's getting a gift on her birthday?

- ☐ Ⓐ "Jason, Jason, I'm six years old."
- ☐ Ⓑ "Are you ok?"
- ☐ Ⓒ "Let's see what Dad wants."
- ☒ Ⓓ "Isn't he wonderful, Jason?"

### Reading Context:

Reading for Literary Experience

### Reading Aspect:

Examining Content and Structure



## Grade 8 Sample Questions and Responses

## Eighth-Grade Multiple-Choice Question

The eighth-grade reading comprehension questions presented here were based on "The Sharebots," by Carl Zimmer. This article explains the work of a Brandeis University computer scientist, Maya Mataric, who programmed her "Nerd Herd," a squad of 14 small robots, to socialize and cooperate for efficient task management.

This question is a vocabulary item asking students to use contextual clues to determine the meaning of a word.

Overall percentage  
correct  
57

Below Basic  
242 or below<sup>1</sup>  
41

At Basic  
243–280<sup>1</sup>  
51

At Proficient  
281–322<sup>1</sup>  
73

At Advanced  
323 or above<sup>1</sup>  
91

<sup>1</sup>NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

The following sentence appears in the next-to-last paragraph of the article:

*"With this simple social contract, the robots needed only 15 minutes of practice to become altruistic."*

Based on how the word is used in the article, which of the following best describes what it means to be altruistic?

- ☐ Ⓐ To engage in an experiment
- ☒ Ⓑ To provide assistance to others
- ☐ Ⓒ To work without taking frequent breaks
- ☐ Ⓓ To compete with others for the highest score

## Reading Context:

Reading for Information

## Reading Aspect:

Developing Interpretation



## Eighth-Grade Short Constructed-Response Question

This question measured students' ability to judge the appropriateness of the article's title and to provide information from the text to support their reasoning. Answers to this question were scored on three levels: evidence of "Full Comprehension," evidence of "Partial or Surface Comprehension," or evidence of "Little or No Comprehension."

This sample response reflects "Full Comprehension" because it offers appropriate evidence from the article directly supporting the idea that the robots shared information.

## Percentage "Full Comprehension"

Overall percentage  
"Full Comprehension"  
40

Below Basic  
242 or below<sup>1</sup>  
16

At Basic  
243–280<sup>1</sup>  
37

At Proficient  
281–322<sup>1</sup>  
60

At Advanced  
323 or above<sup>1</sup>  
82

<sup>1</sup>NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

## Sample "Full Comprehension" Response

Do you think "The Sharebots" is a good title for this article?  
Explain why or why not, using information from the article.

*It is a good title because the robots share information on location of pucks and who retrieves them.*

## Reading Context:

Reading for Information

## Reading Aspect:

Forming a General Understanding





## Grade 12 Sample Questions and Responses

## Twelfth-Grade Multiple-Choice Question

The twelfth-grade reading comprehension questions presented here were based on "Address to the Broadcasting Industry," by Newton Minow. This selection is the text of Minow's 1961 speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, in which he describes American television programming as "a vast wasteland."

In this question, students were asked to choose the answer that best describes the kind of support that Minow used to defend his position.

| Overall percentage correct | Percentage correct                       |                                  |                                       |  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                            | Below Basic<br>264 or below <sup>1</sup> | At Basic<br>265–301 <sup>1</sup> | At Proficient<br>302–345 <sup>1</sup> | At Advanced<br>346 or above <sup>1</sup> |
| 72                         | 52                                       | 71                               | 84                                    | 92                                       |

<sup>1</sup> NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

Mr. Minow mainly supported his position with

- ☒ A personal opinions
- ☐ B rating statistics
- ☐ C recommendations from advertisers
- ☐ D newspaper articles

## Reading Context:

Reading for Information

## Reading Aspect:

Examining Content and Structure

## Twelfth-Grade Short Constructed-Response Question

This question measured students' ability to link information from across the text in order to explain Minow's meaning of "a vast wasteland." Answers to this question were scored on three levels: evidence of "Full Comprehension," evidence of "Partial or Surface Comprehension," or evidence of "Little or No Comprehension."

This response was rated "Full Comprehension" because it demonstrates a clear understanding of Minow's concern and provides a supporting example from the speech.

| Overall percentage "Full Comprehension" | Percentage "Full Comprehension"          |                                  |                                       |  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|   | Below Basic<br>264 or below <sup>1</sup> | At Basic<br>265–301 <sup>1</sup> | At Proficient<br>302–345 <sup>1</sup> | At Advanced<br>346 or above <sup>1</sup> |
| 27                                      | 5  | 22                               | 43                                    | 63                                       |

<sup>1</sup> NAEP reading composite scale range.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

## Sample "Full Comprehension" Response

Why did Mr. Minow refer to television as "a vast wasteland"?  
Give an example from the speech to support your answer.

He called TV a vast wasteland because there is hardly anything worth watching. He used bad game shows and Westerns as examples

## Reading Context:

Reading for Information

## Reading Aspect:

Developing Interpretation

The Nation's  
Report Card

Reading  
Highlights  
2002

National Center for  
Education Statistics

**More Information**

Additional results and detailed information about the NAEP 2002 reading assessment can be found on the NAEP web site. Additional NAEP publications can be ordered from

U.S. Department of Education  
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P.O. Box 1398  
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Additional information about the NAEP reading framework can be found on the National Assessment Governing Board web site at <http://www.nagb.org>.

A banner with a blue background featuring a blurred image of a person's hand holding a pen. The text "NAEP" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, "on the Web" is in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the URL "http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard" is written in white.

# NAEP

on the Web

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

The NAEP web site offers a wealth of assessment information, publications, and analysis tools, including

- fast "one-stop" access to free NAEP publications and assessment data
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